

A different goodbye

by Stand with Ward and Salvatore

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## 1. A different goodbye

**\*\*Disclaimer:** I do not own Arrow or anything else you may recognize.\*\*

**\*\*So,** Oliver/Laurel or even Laurel in general isn't usually my cup of tea but I had to write something after the heartbreaking ending of last night's episode. I have not been Laurel's biggest fan in a long time but I admit that she really stepped up since the end of season three. And I have not liked Oliver/Laurel since season two but the way the writers have portrayed them this season, I wouldn't have minded if they got back together. But, the writers have to shove Olicity down our throats by killing Laurel off and making her an Olicity cheerleader on her deathbed. I'm telling you, if by the end of the season, if Sara doesn't pull something on **\*\*\_\*\*Legends\*\*\_\*\*** that undoes Laurel's death, I'm done with Arrow. But you're not here to listen to me rant. **\*\***

**\*\*This** may turn into a story if enough people want it but right now it's just a one shot.**\*\***

**\*\*Warning:** any Olicity shippers trying to start a fight will be laughed at or reported.**\*\***

Starling General Hospital

Night

"Felicity, Dig," Laurel rushed over to the two of them and they looked up at her, "I came as soon as I heard. How is she?"

"It's bad Laurel, really bad. The doctors don't think she's gonna make it." Diggle said solemnly as Felicity buried her face in his broad shoulder.

"Is this her room?" Laurel asked quietly as she saw the closest room.

"Yeah." Diggle nodded at her.

Without another word, and without waiting to see if any doctors or nurses were there to stop her, Laurel walked inside. Closing the door behind her, Laurel almost froze at the sight of Thea. The younger woman was hooked up to a breathing tube, the only thing keeping her alive. Her skin was so pale. In the corner of the room, Laurel saw Malcolm, looking completely distraught but Laurel couldn't even muster up the hate for him that she usually could. All she could do was walk over and gently take Thea's cold hand.

"The doctors say there's nothing they can do." Malcolm broke the silence and Laurel's hate for the man returned.

"This is all your fault," Laurel glared at the man who had caused so much destruction, "everything that's happened, Tommy, my sister, Oliver being outed as The Arrow, Roy, Thea, it's all because of you. You did this, I should have handed you over to Ra's myself."

"Perhaps it is my fault," Malcolm admitted as he stood up, "but I am her father. And I'd like a moment alone with her."

Laurel glared at him one last time before looking down at the girl she had always considered a younger sister. Leaning down, Laurel places a soft kiss on Thea's forehead before turning around. Wiping the tears from her eyes, Laurel walks out of the room. As she shuts the door behind her, Diggle and Felicity look up. They look like they want to say something, but the look on Laurel's face says enough.

"Where's Oliver?" Laurel asked as she noticed the absence of her ex-boyfriend.

"There was a signal from the league; Oliver went to check it out." Felicity explained and Laurel looked at them startled.

"And you let him go?" Laurel asked shocked and angry.

"You know how he can get; there was no talking him out of it." Felicity said defensively.

"So why didn't you follow him from a distance? The last thing we need is someone else hurt or worse," Laurel demanded and Diggle and Felicity looked at each other, wondering why they hadn't thought of that, "Where did he go?"

Diggle pointed at the place where the smoke had come from not too long ago.

"How long ago did he leave?" Laurel demanded mentally thinking of the fastest way to get there.

"A few minutes before you showed up." Diggle told her and Laurel turned and ran down the hall.

Starling city

Not to long after

Laurel, in her Black Canary outfit, jumped onto the rooftop. Oliver was standing there alone, looking like he had the weight of the world on his shoulders. He didn't seem to notice her presence, which was saying something for how out of it he was. Laurel slowly approached, concern flooding through her.

"Ollie?" Laurel called out.

"What do you want Laurel?" Oliver asked finally looking up at her.

"Felicity said there was a signal from the League." Laurel said confused.

"It was a messenger from Ra's. I have to go." Oliver moved to leave but Laurel grabbed his arm.

"Oliver, go where? What message?" Laurel demanded.

"There's a way to save Thea." Oliver explained and Laurel let go of his arm in shock.

"Oliver, I saw Theaâ€¦it's just not possible." Laurel said as gently as she could, not wanting him to have false hope.

"Yes it is," the two turned to see Malcolm step out of the shadows, "there are special waters in Nanda Parbat, they've enabled Ra's to live for centuries. And in rare instancesâ€¦told in legend, those waters have been used to restore the dead to life. Ra's offered to use the Lazarus Pit on Thea, didn't he?"

"Wait, the Lazarus Pit?" Laurel asked in shock as she turned to Oliver.

"It's real Laurel, I've seen it." Oliver told her.

"And Ra's will bring Thea backâ€¦as long as you take his place." Laurel said as she put the pieces together, "Ollie, you're out of your mind if you think the team and I are going to let you do this."

"If you were in my place, if it was Sara and Ra's offered to save her, wouldn't you?" Oliver challenged and Laurel had no response, knowing that she would do anything to save her sister.

"This wouldn't save Sara and it won't save Thea," Malcolm said and the two turned to him again, "the waters change a person, in the soul. Even if it works, the Thea you lost will not be the one you lost."

"What we lost, because of you!" Oliver snarled as he took a step towards Malcolm.

"Oliver," Laurel said and he turned back towards her, "I'm going with you."

"Laurel-"

"Thea is as much my sister as Sara was, you won't talk me out of it. Besides, someone needs to take her home and after last time, are you really going to trust him with her?" Laurel asked gesturing towards Malcolm and Oliver nodded, conceding.

"We're going to need a way to get to Nanda Parbat." Malcolm pointed out.

"We'll we know a billionaire who owns a private jet." Laurel said smugly and Oliver smile briefly before getting down to business.

"I'll have Felicity talk to Ray. Malcolm, get Thea out of the hospital. Discreetly," Oliver ordered before turning to Laurel, "say goodbye to anyone you need to say goodbye to."

"There's no one that I need to say goodbye to." Laurel said before the three of them parted ways.

Palmer tech runway

Later

"This is goodbye." Oliver told Felicity and Diggle as Laurel and Malcolm, with Thea on a gurney, watched near the plane.

"Oliverâ€¦I don't know what to say man." Diggle trailed off in pain.

"Don't say anything. Whatever happens John, you're my brother. You're the best man I know. I know you can take care of the city from here on out. I can never you enough for everything you've done for me and this city. Goodbye." Oliver said emotionally as the two hugged one last time. They hugged for several moments before they stepped back. Oliver then turned to Felicity.

"Felicity, you helped me when I showed in your car with a bullet wound," Both blonde gave a dry chuckle at the memory, "when I have been at my weakest, you have showed me how strong I can be. I love youâ€¦but I think that we both know that, even if I don't do this, we could only end in tragedy. You deserveâ€¦whatever you want out of life. It just won't be with me. Goodbye."

Oliver leaned down and kissed her on the forehead before backing away. Unable to say anything without breaking down, the two simply watched as Oliver joined the others on the plane. Neither said anything as the plane took off.

Plane, en route to Nanda Parbat, the next day

Early morning

Laurel sat down in the seat across from Oliver as he looked over to the side, out the window. Laurel was quiet for a moment before she

spoke.

"So what's up with you and Malcolm? I mean, I don't care if you're mad at him or anything but it seems like there's more tension than usual between you two." Laurel pointed out.

"He doesn't think I should do this, he thinks I should let Thea die." Oliver explained and Laurel scoffed.

"Who cares what he thinks? Thea's in this position because of him, so I think all parental rights are forfeited." Laurel snarked and Oliver smiled before turning pensive.

"I know I haven't told you—well, anything really of the five years I was away," Oliver began and Laurel froze, hardly believing what was happening, "I came back to Starling City once, during my third year."

"What?" Laurel demanded shocked and slightly angry that he had been back and not let anyone know.

"It's complicated," Oliver said with a slight smile at her 'story of my life' look before he got pensive again, "I saw you, I saw Tommy, I saw Thea, but none of you saw me. I saw that Thea had a drug problem so I confronted her dealer at Tommy's party. I snapped his neck."

"That was you?" Laurel breathed as she remembered the incident at Tommy's birthday party and Oliver nodded before continuing.

"I did it because I was angry but I also felt like I was protecting her." Oliver said and Laurel reached out and took one of his hands.

"You have done the best you can; you have protected her to the best of your ability." Laurel tried to sooth him.

"Malcolm warned me about what Ra's might do, but I never thought—I failed Laurel." Oliver told her.

"You did not fail, Malcolm failed as a father. You didn't put her in this situation, he did when he brainwashed her and had her kill my sister." Laurel tried to placate him.

"Maybe—but if I had been honest with her, then maybe none of this would have happened." Oliver said quietly.

Laurel had no response for that. It was probably true but Oliver didn't need to hear that. So she just sat there and squeezed his hand, hoping it offered him some comfort.

Nanda Parbat

Night

Oliver, Laurel, and Malcolm exited the plane, Oliver carrying Thea's body. They came upon hundreds, perhaps thousands, of men and women wearing attire similar to Malcolm's dark archer garb. They held torches and even banners. It was the League, Laurel realized. Some of the crowd parted and a bearded Caucasian man wearing a green robe and

a ring around his figure approached as he was flanked by two assassins. This was Ra's al Ghul, Laurel realized with a little fear.

"Welcome home, Al-Sah-Him." Ra's said.

Oliver walked forward and the assassins kneeled as Ra's got a smug expression on his face. Ra's led them back to his palace, where Laurel was amazed by the sheer size of it.

"We must prepare for the ritual," one of the assassins that had flanked Ra's said as he walked forward to take Thea and Oliver hesitated, "I will treat her as though she were my own family."

Oliver finally surrendered his sister's body and the assassin walked away with it. None of the trio from Starling let their eyes leave Thea's carrier until he was out of sight. Oliver, Malcolm, and Laurel were shown their rooms. Laurel quietly thought that her room looked like a foreign suite without a television. The Assassin that had taken Thea walked into her room and she turned around, distrust entering her heart.

"I hope you find your accommodations comfortable Ms. Lance." He said.

"How do you know who I am?" Laurel demanded.

"Your sister and I arrived here the same year. Forgive me for my rudeness, I am Sarab." He said and Laurel's eyes widened in recognition.

"You're Maseo." Laurel realized and Sarab shook his head.

"In another life. Come, the ritual is about to begin." Sarab said and Laurel followed him.

Sarab led Laurel into a huge room with a large tub. Half the League seemed to fill the room and Oliver, Malcolm, and about five other assassins were above it. Thea, her body held in the air by rope, was lifted above the tub. Sarab joined the others by the ropes as a woman began chanting in another language. As she chanted, Oliver, Malcolm, Sarab, and the assassins lowered Thea into the water by the ropes.

Laurel, along with the others, waited with baited breath as Thea was completely submerged by the water. They waited and, for a moment, it looked like it didn't work. Then the ropes were pulled into the water and an explosion of water appeared as Thea jumped out of the pit. Any joy was short lived as Thea kicked Oliver to the ground on his back and snarled, acting like an animal. Thea jumped but assassins restrained her before they put something on her neck. Thea instantly stilled as she slumped into unconsciousness, Oliver grabbing her and lowering her to the floor as he checked her over.

"I have fulfilled my end of our arrangement. I suggest you begin to make peace with yours." Ra's said before he walked out of the room.

Ra's' palace

Later

Thea shot up in bed, her breathing heaving.

"I don't know you." Thea said as Oliver tried to comfort her.

"â€|Thea, it's Ollie." Oliver said gently.

"Ollie's dead," Thea said to everyone's shock before looking over at Laurel, "Laurel? What's going on, where are we?"

"We're somewhere safe Speedy, it's okay." Laurel said as she walked over to Thea's other side and leaned down.

"Where's mom? And Walter?" asked and Laurel, Oliver, and Malcolm exchanged a look.

"They're not here Thea. Why don't you lean back and get some rest, okay." Laurel said.

Thea nodded at her before leaning back and closing her eyes. Laurel walked over to Oliver, the unasked question in her eyes.

"It's a temporary side effect. Ra's told me that the confusion would pass." Oliver explained.

"She thinks your mother is still alive." Laurel said as she looked over Malcolm who sat at the sleeping young woman's side.

"She's alive, she'll be alright." Oliver said.

"Will you?" Laurel asked as she looked over at him.

"I have to be." Oliver said vaguely.

"Ms. Lance," Sarab said as he appeared at the door, "may I speak to you privately?"

After sharing a look with Oliver, Laurel followed Sarab out of the room. Sarab took her into another room that was mostly bare as Laurel looked around. After going through somethings, Sarab returned with a picture. As Sarab handed it to her, Laurel realized it was of her and Sara shortly before the Gambit.

"Besides the close on her back, this was the only thing your sister had on her when she was found by the League." Sarab explained as Laurel fought back tears.

"T-thank you." Laurel said as she pocketed the photo.

"I held my child in my arms as he died," Sarab said and Laurel looked up at him stunned, "there are so many things I would have liked to say to him but there was not enough time. The reason I am telling you this is becauseâ€|if there is anything you wish to tell Oliver before you leave, now would be the time."

Later, Laurel walked into Oliver's room. Oliver sat on a chair, looking pensive. Laurel approached him and he looked up.

"This may sound like a stupid question, but what are you thinking about so hard?" Laurel asked and he let a slight smile grace his face.

"The first time I never thought I'd see Thea again. It was when that boat went down. The person that I wasâ€|the brother that I wasâ€|died when that boat went down." Oliver said.

"No, he didn't," Laurel said and he looked up her, "the night of the Undertaking, you told me that the island stripped away everything that wasn't and brought out the person you always were, the person you were meant to be. You know what? You were right. The island just allowed you to become the person I always knew you could be. You have saved so many people, you have changed lives, and you have become a greater person than I ever thought you could be."

"And if this is where it all leadsâ€|I don't know what it was all for." Oliver confessed.

"You're doing what you have to in order to protect Thea," Laurel said as she sat down across from him, "Ollie, I wish there was a way we could've saved Thea and not had to lose you in the process but it's just the way it is. And if this is just the way it isâ€|then I have to tell you something. Something I probably should have told you a long time ago."

"What?" Oliver asked concerned.

"I love you," Laurel said as he stared at her stunned, "I have never stopped loving you. Believe me; I have tried to stop loving you. But I can'tâ€|and I honestly don't want to. No matter what happensâ€|you will always be the love of my life."

Laurel stopped, waiting for him to respond. She expected him to reject her, saying that he was in love with Felicity. However, that was not what happened. Oliver took her face in his hands and brought her in for a kiss. Stunned, Laurel did not respond before Oliver pulled back.

"I never stopped loving you either." Oliver told her and Laurel felt a beaming smile cross her face as their lips met again.

It was like falling into instinct, they would later reflect. Laurel quickly shed her jacket as she helped Oliver remove his shirt. Oliver stood up and helped her remove her own shirt, revealing her black lace bra. Laurel pushed Oliver down on the bed as she began to straddle him as she unclasped her bra.

Later, Oliver and Laurel were wrapped up in the sheets, Laurel leaning into his side.

"Soâ€|wow," Laurel said amazed at what had transpired, "I really wasn't expecting that to happen when I came in here."

"Me either. But I'm glad it did." Oliver said as he leaned down and kissed her again.

"Me to." Laurel said after they broke the kiss.



"al-Sah-Him," Sarab's voice said from behind the door said and Laurel instinctively shielded herself, "your time is up. It is time to say goodbye."

As they heard Sarab's footsteps retreat, the mood was killed as they looked at each other sadly.

"It was nice while it lastedâ€¦I just wish we had more time." Laurel said softly.

"So do I." Oliver said as he leaned down and kissed her once last time.

They dressed and made their way to what was basically the throne room. Ra's stood with Malcolm and Thea, who still looked a little confused and frightened.

"You may escort your sister and friends to their way home. But I will have followed; to make sure you do not try and run." Ra's told Oliver who nodded.

Oliver led the way out of the palace. The group of four made their way to the edge of the island, where they had originally landed. Oliver stopped and turned to them, a solemn expression on his face.

"This is as far as I go." Oliver told them.

"I don't understand." Thea said sounding like the child she had been when Oliver and Laurel had been dating.

"Malcolm's gonna take you home Speedy." Oliver said as he placed a comforting hand on her shoulder.

"You're not coming with?" Thea asked confused.

"Not know," Oliver said as he hugged her, burying her face in the crook of his neck, "I love you Thea. Don't ever forget that okay."

Oliver tried not to cry as he let Thea go. Malcolm led Thea away and Oliver turned to face Laurel. Oliver walked over and Laurel took a deep breath, attempting not to cry as hard as he was.

"How many times do we have to say goodbye, right?" Laurel said her voice cracking.

"Laurelâ€¦if I could go back, I would do right by you. We may have had a future together by now. But since I didn't, here's where we are. I need you to do something for me." Oliver told her.

"What?" Laurel asked, trying to stop the crack in her voice.

"Forget about me. You deserve the best of everything Laurel Lanceâ€¦and I hope you find it. You are the love of my lifeâ€¦but I have to let you go. Move on, I need you to do that. If not for yourself, then for me." Oliver told her passionately.

Oliver leaned down and they shared one last kiss before Oliver stepped back. Oliver watched her go until she faded from sight.

Oliver then turned back and walked back to the palace.

**\*\*So, what do you guys think? Please leave any thoughts or comments in a review, feedback is greatly appreciated. I accept criticism so long as it is constructive, no flames.\*\***

## 2. War of the heirs

**\*\*Disclaimer: I do not own Arrow or anything else you may recognize.\*\***

**\*\*So, it's become a story due to popular demand. This chapter is probably not as good as last, but I hope you enjoy it. \*\***

Starling City

Night

A man was running down an ally when he spotted a fence. He ran to it and began to climb it when the Black Canary appeared behind him. She grabbed him by the back of his hoodie and yanked him off the fence, throwing him to the ground. The man stood up and shot her a smile, a nasty, smug, smile.

"Haven't ya heard? Masks aren't wanted in Starling anymore." The man said smugly.

He tried to take off again but she grabbed him by the back of his hoodie and all but threw him back against the fence.

"Tell that to the woman you mugged." Black Canary snarled.

He moved towards her, taking a swing at her, but she ducked. Shooting back up, Black Canary struck him three times across the face in quick succession. She backed him up against the fence, all the while wailing on him. Out of nowhere, a hand shoots out and grabs her arm, stopping the pummeling. As Black Canary takes a deep breath, she realizes that he isn't even conscious anymore. She backed away and lets him fall, blood on his face, to the ground.

"Come, we need to talk." Nyssa said as she led Laurel away from the alley.

Dinner

Not long after

"I never understood your country's need to fry everything." Nyssa said as she examined a fry.

"That's because 'everything' tastes better that way," Laurel quipped, imitating her friend's accent a little before becoming serious, "I know you didn't bring me here to talk about food."

"Why have you been so aggressive during these last few weeks?" Nyssa demanded.

"Because I'm angry, because I'm heart-broken. Take your pick, I can't figure out which emotion beats the other." Laurel said as she picked

at her fries.

"What has happened? I know this is not about your father; you did not act this way when he was hunting Oliver. What has happened?" Nyssa demanded, noticing Laurel's flinch at Oliver's name.

"It's about Oliver—he's in Nanda Parbat. He's accepted your father's offer to become the next Ra's al Ghul." Laurel finally admitted and was surprised when Nyssa leapt to her feet, alarm in his eyes.

"You should not have kept this from me!" Nyssa hissed before storming out of the dinner.

Diggle apartment

Same time

"How are you?" Diggle asked Thea as they sat around the table with Lyla, Felicity, and little Sara.

"Well, I've never been resurrected before. I don't really have anything to compare it to." Thea said dryly.

"I meant about Oliver—being gone." Diggle said and the mood turned solemn.

"Well, the mornings are the worst. I can't really leave the loft, so it helps to get out of the house." Thea said and Lyla put a hand on her arm.

"You are always welcome in our home." Lyla said and Thea smiled gratefully.

"Laurel seems to be taking it harder than anyone," Diggle mentioned and the three women turned to him curiously, "she been rather—violent during missions. Any idea what's up with her Thea?"

"No—actually," Thea tilted her head to the side as she thought of something, "When we left Nanda Parbat, Malcolm led me away as Ollie and Laurel said goodbye and I looked back. Now, I was still really out of it but from what I saw, it was almost like before."

"Before?" Lyla repeated as they started at her confused.

"Before the island, when they were dating. You know, it seemed—intimate." Thea said and the three exchanged looks, confusion on their faces.

Nyssa's hideout

Later

"Look, I'm sorry I didn't tell you about Oliver," Laurel said as she walked into see that Nyssa sharpening a sword, "but I was mourning the man I love giving up his life."

"Were I so inclined, I would question why your first instinct is to keep secrets, especially considering how it cost you your

relationship with your father. But I have greater concerns." Nyssa said as she walked over to a munitions box.

"Nyssa—what's going on?" Laurel asked, realizing this was about more than hurt feelings.

"Leave." Nyssa ordered but Laurel stood her ground.

"No, friends don't do that to one another." Laurel said firmly and Nyssa seemed to debate with herself before giving in.

"Now that Oliver has accepted my Father's offer to be Heir to the Demon—he will come for me. With as many men as it takes to kill me." Nyssa said and Laurel almost dropped to her knees in horror.

Starling City

Same time

Al-Sah-Him, Sarab, and six other assassins used a zip line to glide onto a rooftop. Once they all standing on the building, Al-Sah-Him turned to the men assembled.

"Tonight, Nyssa al Ghul faces justice for her betrayal." Al-Sah-Him told them.

Palmer Tech

Later

"Apparently the league has some sort of process of reprogramming for some of their recruits." Laurel told Diggle and Felicity as she and Nyssa stood before them.

"Brain-washing? Oliver never said anything about brain-washing!" Felicity said startled.

"Our ways are shrouded in rituals and ceremony. Oliver will not even know it is happening to him." Nyssa explained.

"No! Oliver is stronger than that!" Felicity said in denial.

"Wake up Felicity; he joined a group of people called 'The League of Assassins.' Is brain-washing really that far out of the question? I don't have time to argue about what Oliver is or isn't capable of, but I am going to protect Nyssa, with or without you." Laurel said, looking between Felicity and Diggle before she walked after Nyssa, who had walked off during the argument.

"You will not let them help?" Nyssa asked as they left.

"To tell you the truth, I'm not sure either of them has it in them," Laurel admitted, "You saw how Felicity was acting. And Oliver and Dig were closer than I've ever seen two people be. I don't think he has it in him to take on Oliver."

Starling City

Later

Nyssa stood on a rooftop, seemingly alone.

"Here is where my beloved departed this world. Do you even remember Sara or has my father obliterated her from your memory?" Nyssa asked as she turned around to face Al-Sah-Him.

"I'm here to take you back to Nanda Parbat." Al-Sah-Sid said emotionlessly.

"For justice? If so, for what crime? For vengeance? If so, for what offense?" Nyssa inquired.

"You told me vengeance is justice." Al-Sah-Him reminded her.

"And you bested me in battle. That won't happen again." Nyssa said confidently.

She reached back and takes an arrow out of her quiver and then they are off. Running on opposite sides of the rooftop, Nyssa shot arrow after arrow at Al-Sah-Him. However, he dodged them all and, once the skylines were out of the way, he notched an arrow and fired but Nyssa took out her sword and deflected it. Al-Sah-Him shot off two more arrows but achieved the same result. Nyssa rushed at him but Al-Sah-Him side sidestepped her.

An explosion of smoke temporarily blinded Nyssa before her opponent came at her again. Al-Sah-Him struck at her with his sword but Nyssa blocked it with her own. The battle of archers quickly turned into a battle of swordsmen. Nyssa was back towards the edge of the roof when Al-Sah-Him knocked her down. Nyssa fell on her back, her head almost falling on the edge of the roof. Al-Sah-Him put his blade to Nyssa's throat before she could get up.

"Do it. If I am to die, I want to do it on the same ground as Sara." Nyssa told him.

Before he could react, both groaned in pain as a loud, sonic shriek echoed throughout the area. The glass on the skylines shattered. Al-Sah-Him stood up and turned around to see Black Canary and Diggle, who was aiming a gun at him.

Laurel had to control her gasp. It was one thing to know about what Oliver had become, another entirely to see it. She barely recognized the man she had left in Nanda Parbat. There was no sign that he recognized her or Diggle, he simply regarded them as though they were enemies. He stared at them for a moment before turning and jumping off the rooftop. Laurel was shaking, trying to keep from breaking down crying. She was stronger than this; she was not the girl who had lost her boyfriend and sister. She would fight Al-Sah-Him and save Oliver.

Nyssa's hideout

Later

"You should not have interfered." Nyssa told Laurel as she bandaged her wrist.

"Well excuse me, but I have a lost a sister, a father, Tommy,

Oliver," Laurel had to fight to keep the tears at bay as she remembered her former lover's face tonight, "I was not about to lose you to."

"You already have. I was sentenced to death the moment Oliver accepted my father's offer," Nyssa turned around to face Laurel, "Laurelâ€|these past few week have enlightened me. To a life outside my father's rule. To be someone elseâ€|even for just a short while, brought me great happiness," Nyssa smiled before turning back around, "but I am daughter of the demon. Happiness was not meant for me."

"I haveâ€|known Oliver my entire life, we've been friends since we were kids," Laurel said before swallowing the lump in her throat, "but tonight I didn't recognize him."

"I told you, he has been changed." Nyssa reminded her as she looked back at Laurel, "you still love him. That is why it causes you so much pain to see what he has become."

"I told him just before I left Nanda Parbat. I didn't expect him to still love meâ€|but he did." Laurel admitted.

"The man who loved you is no more. He died when he accepted my father's offer." Nyssa told her softly.

Starling City

Same time

"There was doubt you would return, but not from me," Sarab said as he walked up to Al-Sah-Sid, "what happened?"

"Nyssa had friends." Al-Sah-Him said vaguely.

"These friends of Nyssa'sâ€|were they friends of yours?" Sarab asked carefully.

"They'll be protecting her now," Al-Sah-Him said as he turned away from Sarab, "we need to draw her out."

Nyssa's hideout

Later

"Laurel?" Diggle called as he and Felicity walked into the lair, "Oliver and his new friends took Lyla."

"What is Sara okay?" Laurel asked aghast.

"She's with John's neighbor." Felicity explains as Diggle slammed Nyssa up against the wall.

"What's wrong with you?!" Diggle demanded.

"This is not Nyssa's fault!" Laurel said as she tried to get between them.

"No, just her people," Diggle sneered as he glared at Nyssa, "you call yourselves warriors? You claim to have honor, but if you knew the meaning of the word, you know that there are some lines you do

not cross!" Diggle shouted.

"John, back off!" Laurel told him as she pushed him away from Nyssa.

"You back off!" Diggle shouted, mad beyond reason.

"I am truly sorry. I never meant for any harm to come to you or your family." Nyssa told him.

"Yeah Nyssa? Then prove it, turn yourself over to the League." Diggle ordered.

"What? So we're just gonna negotiate with them now? Turn over an innocent person?" Laurel demanded of him.

"She's not innocent; she's the daughter of the Demon. She's probably killed hundreds of people." Diggle sneered.

"So now you get to decide who lives and dies John?" Laurel challenged.

"That's not what I'm saying." Diggle disagreed.

"Sure sounds like it!" Laurel said heatedly.

"Fine, then that's how it is. I don't care how I get Lyla back, but I'll get her back." Diggle declared.

"Trading one life for another? We're supposed to be better than that." Laurel told him.

"It is fine, of course you would trade me for your beloved," Nyssa said as she walked up next to Laurel, "I won't see an innocent life taken for mine."

"Nyssa, no!" Laurel shouted in objection.

"I already told you, happiness was not meant for me Laurel." Nyssa told her.

"Look, we have to find another way," Laurel said as she looked over at Diggle, "because if we do this, even if you get Lyla back, Oliver won't be the only one to have lost his soul."

Ware house

Later

"They're here." Sarab told Al-Sah-Him and the assassin turned around to face his former team, plus Nyssa.

"Search them." Al-Sah-Him ordered.

"Where's my wife?" Diggle demanded as Sarab walked over and searched him first, "where's my wife?!"

Al-Sah-him did not answer him. Instead, he raised his hand and gestured someone forward. An assassin brought Lyla forward and while it was clear she had not been intentionally harmed, it was clear that

they had not been gentle with her. Diggle looked furious and Laurel couldn't blame him.

"You son of a bitch." Diggle growled.

"Don't you dare touch me." Felicity growled at Sarab as he moved from Laurel to search her.

"Do it. Do not be fooled by her lack of physical skills, her cunning mind is her most dangerous weapon." Al-Sah-Him said and Sarab nodded.

"Oliver-" Felicity began as Sarab searched her, pulling the two pistols from her.

"Silence. You have no sway over me Felicity Smoak. I realize now that I did not love you, I loved the idea of a normal life that you represented." Al-Sah-Him said emotionlessly and Felicity looked heart-broken.

"Oliver," Laurel called and he looked over at her, his eyes softening ever so slightly as his eyes locked with hers, "is there any part of you still in there?"

"Oliver Queen is dead, he exists only in memory. He died loving you, Mahbubi." Al-Sah-Him said with the barest hint of emotion before he hardened as he turned towards Nyssa, "bind her."

Two assassins walked over to Nyssa and began to restrain her. Al-Sah-Him looked over at Lyla.

"You're free to go." He told her.

The assassin holding her untied her hands and Lyla walked over to the others and hugged Diggle, husband and wife having a reunion as the assassins led Nyssa over to them.

"Bow before the true Heir to the Demon." Sarab ordered her.

"I kneel before no one." Nyssa said stubbornly.

Two arrows fly out and pierced two assassins in the heart and they dropped dead. Everyone looked up from where the arrows had come from to see Thea, dressed in a black jump suit, aiming a bow and arrow. It was then that Laurel had her first glimpse of hope that Oliver could be saved. It was fleeting, but she saw a look of horror cross Oliver's face at Thea's presence, only someone who had known him as long as she had would have seen it. However, it quickly vanished, replaced by the emotionless mask he had worn previously.

A fight quickly broke out. Nyssa took on two of the other assassins, Laurel took one the other two with a baton, while Diggle picked up a sword and began a sword fight with Al-Sah-Him and Thea jumped into the fray and began a fight with Sarab. However, Laurel was easily beaten and Nyssa lost focus as she called out to her friend. That was her mistake, as her moment of losing focus allowed her opponent to disarm her. Forced to her knees, the downed Laurel could only watch as the assassins dragged Nyssa away.

It was obvious that Sarab was holding back on behalf of Oliver. After



exchanging blows with swords for a minute, Sarab disarmed her and sent a kick to her stomach. Thea was sent to the ground and Sarab turned and walked after his companions.

Diggle put up a good fight, lasting longer than most, but the gap in their skills was very apparent. Diggle was sent to on his side, but he still managed to keep Al-Sah-Him's blade away from him. Then Al-Sah-Him feigned like he was going to clash his sword against Diggle's blade but instead, he went for Diggle's hand. Diggle cried out in pain as the blade cut against his skin. He dropped the blade s his opponent kicked him in the side, sending him rolling a foot away. Al-Sah-Him picked up the fallen blade and raised it towards Diggle, but otherwise made to move to harm his former friend any further. Felicity, Laurel, and Lyla watched with baited breath, silently praying that Oliver wouldn't do it.

"You're still Oliver, doesn't matter if the hood's green or black. You're still you!" Diggle shouted trying to reach his friend but it didn't seem to be having any effect.

An arrow went throw Al-Sah-Him's forearm. He looked surprised but the assassin otherwise did not react. Everyone turned to see Thea, aiming a bow and arrow at her brother.

"Get away from him or the next one goes in your eye." Thea growled.

Al-Sah-him dropped the swords. He pulled out the arrow, dropped it with the swords, and followed after the other assassins. Everyone stared after him, their own emotions all about to erupt in a storm.

Palmer tech

Later

"Lyla just called. She and Sara are headed out of town until we get this straightened out." Diggle told Laurel, Thea, and Felicity as he walked into the room.

"I'm not sure anyone could straighten this out." Laurel muttered even as thoughts of Oliver's brief horrified expression flashed through her mind.

"What was it that Oliver called you?" Thea asked her as she looked at the older woman, "I know it's Arabic, which I know Sara and Nyssa were teaching you. What does it mean?"

"He called me Mahbubi," Laurel said after seeing everyone wondering the same thing, "my Arabic is still a little iffy, but I think it means 'my beloved.'"

"What exactly happened between you and Oliver in Nanda Parbat?" Felicity asked suspiciously.

"That's none of your business." Laurel said coolly.

"I think it's everyone's business." Felicity said bitingly.

"You won't like the answer." Laurel warned her and that was all

Felicity needed to understand.

"Laurel." Diggle warned.

"What, I get called out for telling the truth but she doesn't get called out for digging into my personal life? You know, I am getting really tired of the pedestal that everyone put you on Felicity. What happened between Oliver and me is between us, it's no one else's business." Laurel fumed before storming out

Nanda Parbat, Ra's palace

Later

Oliver stood in his chambers, thinking. Ra's decision to have him and Nyssa wed was a problem. It would force him to move up his plans, he needed to call Malcolm.

\*\*So, what do you think? Please leave any thoughts or comments in a review, feedback is greatly appreciated. \*\*

### 3. What is the truth?

\*\*Disclaimer: If I owned arrow, Laurel would not be dead and Arrow would still be a crime drama, not a soap opera.\*\*

\*\*So, for those of you who have been requesting I do a re-write of season four that continues on from this verse, listen up. I'm probably not going to do that, because it's too much of a mess for me to fix. I will probably, at some point down the line, do little shorts of things during season four that I would have done differently. But not for a while , if at all.\*\*

Diggle apartment

Night

"You need to control your anger John." Laurel said as she, Diggle, and Felicity stood in Diggle's apartment.

"Laurel." Felicity said warningly.

"Shut up Felicity," Laurel snapped before turning back to Diggle, "I get it. I understand just how angry you are, but you can't let it rule you. Hospitalizing every criminal you come across won't change what happened and it certainly won't turn Oliver back into who he was."

"You're rightâ€|it won't happen again." Diggle assured her.

"That wasn't Oliver that did that." Felicity protested.

"Yes, it was. There'sâ€|something I haven't told you guys," Laurel admitted and they turned to her, "when Thea showed up at the docks, I saw his face. You guys wouldn't notice it, only someone who had known him as long as Tommy or I would. It was horrified, not at Thea attacking him, but at Thea being there at all. I think he's still in there somewhere."

Nanda Parbat

Night

"We need help Malcolm." Oliver told the man as they across a fire.

"You were a little good in convincing your friends that you had allied yourself with Ra's. And I don't think I carry much credibility with them. The only one likely to even entertain the idea is Laurel, who doesn't seem to have completely given up on you." Malcolm noted, catching the slight twitch of Oliver's lips.

"I know someone they can trust." Oliver told him.

Starling City

Next night

"Any idea what this is about?" Laurel asked as she waited with Diggle and Felicity.

"Probably nothing good." Diggle said irritably.

"Thisâ€¦isn't going to be easy for any of you to believe." Malcolm said as he walked inside.

"Gee, I wonder why that is." Laurel asked sarcastically.

"But it is imperative that you know the truth." Malcolm continued as if Laurel hadn't spoken.

"The truth about what?" Felicity demanded.

"Oliver," Malcolm said and he had their attention, "his alliance with the league is a charade."

"Why would you even begin to play with our emotions like that?" Felicity demanded icily.

"The plan was cultivated the moment Oliver realized that he had to turn to Ra's to save Thea." Malcolm continued ignoring Felicity.

"And instead of letting us in on his plan, he trusted you?" Diggle asked skeptically.

"The man responsible for the deaths of hundreds, my sister and his best friend among them, and brainwashed Thea?" Laurel said in the same voice.

"Well, I am more skilled in the art of deception. And, excuse me for saying so; none of you are particular skilled actors." Malcolm pointed out.

"I'm out." Diggle said as he turned to leave with Laurel and Felicity following him.

"You know how dangerous Ra's and the League are. The circle of trust had to be small." Malcolm called after them.

"Then what changed?" Laurel asked as she turned around, the shock beginning to wear off and hope beginning to blossom in her chest.

"Forget it Laurel, there's nothing he could say that could make us believe him." Diggle said angrily.

"I know. Which is why I've asked a friend of Oliver's to come and speak to you." Malcolm said.

The door opened and Team Arrow turned around. An Asian woman with hair down to her chin walked in and Laurel was struck by the look in her eyes. It was the same look she had seen in the mirror for almost eight years: it was the look of someone who had lost someone they loved very deeply.

"My name is Tatsu Yamashiro. And your city is in great danger." Tatsu told them far too calmly.

"You expect us to believe her? We've never even met her. We've never met her, right?" Felicity asked Laurel, who was beginning to grow annoyed with the blonde.

"No, aside from when I helped Oliver recover from the wounds inflicted by Ra's al Ghul, my life has been one of isolation." Tatsu admitted.

"This is your big play Merlyn? A woman we've never even met or heard of?" Diggle asked in disbelief.

"Oliver doesn't like to talk about the past, but that is not important. My son was killed by the virus that Ra's plans to unleash upon your city." Tatsu revealed and Laurel remembered a conversation with Sarab.

"You're Maseo's wife." Laurel realized and Tatsu nodded.

"Oliver was with me when it happened. He knows the danger you all face." Tatsu explained.

"No offense Tatsu, but it's a little hard to take what you're saying seriously when you show up with him." Laurel said as she jerked her head towards Malcolm.

"I do not know your history with Malcolm Merlyn. This request comes from Oliver." Tatsu said.

"I'm not sure that's much better at the moment." Diggle muttered, which seemed to set Malcolm over the edge.

"Look, I am not playing a game here!" Malcolm shouted as he stormed over to them, "my daughter lives in this city too, in case you've forgotten," Malcolm pulls out a file and hands it to Diggle, "this is everything I have on the bioweapon. I've arranged passage for all of us to Nanda Parbat. If you're coming, be at Ferris air before sunrise."

Team Arrow watched as Malcolm and Tatsu walked off, hesitance entering their hearts. Was Malcolm telling the truth for

once?

Palmer tech

Later

"I can't go back there, not after what they did to Oliver." Felicity said as she walked away from Laurel and Diggle.

"Then stay here for all I care, I'm going." Laurel snapped as she turned to walk away.

"Laurel." Diggle called out shock.

"What John, what is she gonna do if she goes? Use her hacking skills to somehow magically save the day? No, I am done wasting time catering to her needs all the time. If she wants to stay here and bury her head in the sand, I say let her." Laurel snapped as she walked out.

Plan, next day

En route to Nanda Parbat

Laurel looked out the window, thinking of Oliver. Had he been pretending the whole time with Ra's? Admittedly, it sounded like something Oliver would do and he has pulled such tactics before. Hearing someone take the seat across from her, Laurel looked over to see Tatsu studying her with such intensity that it freaked her out a little.

"Something wrong Tatsu?" Laurel asked curiously.

"No, I just wanted to see it for myself." Tatsu admitted.

"See what?" Laurel asked confused.

"Oliver and my husband, Maseo, became good friends. Before Maseo and I parted ways, he told me of something Oliver had told him. Oliver told him of a woman back home that was a queen among women. He said that he loved her with all his heart, loved her so much that it scared him. So he betrayed her, time after time and all he wanted to do was make it right." Tatsu explained and Laurel had to wipe her eyes as tears started to form.

"He, um, he said that?" Laurel asked trying not to turn into a sobbing mess.

"Yes. I know this must be difficult to hear with what has happened, but if I may offer you some advice," Tatsu requested softly and Laurel nodded encouragingly, "when Maseo walked into the darkness, I let him go and he has been lost to me ever since. You still have a chance not to repeat my mistakes. Oliver has not yet surrendered himself to the darkness; he can still be turned away from it. If anyone can turn him back, it will be you." Tatsu told her.

Nanda Parbat

Afternoon

The group landed near the area edge of the island. They climbed up the mountains, which was only a little taxing for them, because they were all used to running for long periods of time. They reached the top to see a plane at the base of the mountain.

"There it is. That's the plane that Ra's plane to spread the Alpha/Omega virus over Starling." Malcolm announced.

Laurel opened her mouth to speak but Malcolm held up his hand, signaling for her to be quiet. It was only the tense expression on his face that made Laurel obey. After a moment, Malcolm whipped out his bow, notched an arrow, and fired. His aim struck true and an arrow struck an assassin that seemed to appear out of nowhere in the heart.

"There'll be more." Malcolm warned them as they moved out.

Sure enough, another assassin appeared not five seconds later at the edge of the mountain. Malcolm quickly dispatched him but it was at that point that they realized that were surrounded. Diggle shot off his assault rifle, taking out a few assassins as the battle began.

Tatsu and Diggle ran to the plane as Laurel and Malcolm covered them. The two enemies stood back to back, taking on every assassin that came their way. Malcolm fought his group of assassins using swords while Laurel was using her baton to block their strikes while delivering punches and kicks to their chests.

Diggle and Tats made it close enough to the plane to do what they had to do. Diggle took out a grenade, unclipped it, and threw it towards the plane. Just before it landed near the plane, a knife hit it and sent it away harmlessly. Diggle and Tatsu ducked and got out of the line of fire just as the grenade went off. When the dust cleared, they looked up to see an assassin with an orange mask covering the lower half of his face.

"Surrender now you may live." He said.

"Maseo." Tatsu said as she and Diggle stood up.

"Maseo is gone." Sarab told her coolly.

"After our child died, you left me when I needed you most. But you can still come back to me. It's not too late." Tatsu told him.

"Yes, it is." Sarab told her.

Sarab removed his mask and the two former lovers began to fight as Diggle picked up his rifle and started firing at the other assassins.

Laurel was held in a neck lock by an assassin when he was struck in the back by two arrows. He released her and fell to the ground, dead as Malcolm walked over. Laurel gave him a glare.

"You know I wouldn't have done the same for you." Laurel told him coldly.

"I know." Malcolm acknowledged.

To everyone's horror, the plane began to take off into the air. However, hope was on their side as Ray Palmer, in the A.T.O.M. suit, appeared in the air. Raising his left arm, Ray shot a laser out of his armor and struck the plane. However, it didn't seem to faze it much, as the plane seemed activate its self-defense system as it shot out a missile at him. It struck Ray but he was alright. Realizing his lasers were dismantled, Ray had another idea. Ray flew up to the plane and punched a hole in the center by flying through it, causing the plane to explode a moment later.

However, it seemed Ray lost control of his speed. He was coming down to earth at a few hundred miles per hour. Diggle jumped out of the way as Ray crashed right where Diggle had been standing only a moment earlier.

"Ray, are you okay?" Diggle inquired.

"You should see the other guy." Ray said with a tired smile.

"What are you doing here?" Diggle asked curiously.

"Barry Allen called me, told me that Oliver wanted my help with destroying a plane." Ray explained.

Tatsu and Sarab's sword duel carried on. The battle seemed evenly matched until Sarab grabbed her arm and flipped on her onto the ground.

"Tell Akio that I love him." Sarab told her as he raised his sword to deliver the killing blow.

As he raised the sword, Tatsu shoot to his knees and ran her sword through his stomach. Sarab didn't seem in pain, only shocked. He dropped his sword before Tatsu pulled her's out of his body.

"You will tell him for both of us." Tatsu said as he fell to his knees.

Tatsu held him in her arms as he faded away, his head on her shoulder. Tatsu started to cry as he spoke again.

"Thank youâ€|for releasing meâ€|from my prison." Maseo told her as he began to fade.

Sobbing, Tatsu began to sing a Japanese lullaby that she had often sang to Akio. She sang until Maseo was gone before she began sobbing in earnest.

"Enough!" everyone turned to see Ra's, Al-Sah-Him, and an army of assassins standing at the top of the mountain, "any further resistance would be futile, you have failed."

"Uh, you see that pile of burnt metal over there?" Ray said sarcastically as he pointed to0 the remains of the plane.

"We've stopped your plane to destroy Starling City!" Diggle shouted at Ra's.

"No, you only think you have." Ra's corrected as he held up the

virus.

"Surrender or die." AL-Sah-Him ordered.

Ra's palace

Early night

Oliver was leading his friends and Malcolm through the palace, they were alone. Diggle was trying to talk to him.

"Oliver, Oliver answer me." Diggle demanded.

"Be quiet," Oliver said as he turned to them, "if you speak, we're all gonna die."

Diggle quieted as Oliver turned around and led them into what was obviously the throne room. Ra's stood waiting for them and Oliver stood beside him as the five of them lined up before him.

"The Chinese have a saying: Stir the girl and you wake the snake. My ruse with the plane was meant to reveal any traitors among us. How did you know of the plane, of the virus?" Ra's demanded as he paced back and forth in front of them, finally stopping at Laurel.

Laurel met his gaze unflinchingly, feeling no fear of the man before her. Perhaps she would have a month ago, but any fear she had of him was bested by her hatred of what he had done to Nyssa and Oliver.

"Maseo told me. And I told them." Tatsu lied and Ra's walked over to her.

"So a dead man told you, how convenient." Ra's mentioned an undertone of sarcasm to his voice.

"He told me that only three men knew of your plan: you, him, and Oliver." Tatsu continued.

"Oliver Queen is dead. I am Al-Sah-Him." The man in question said blankly.

"This is not the first time Sarab has betrayed me to Maseo Yamashiro's weaknesses," Ra's admitted, "while your timing was a function of my gambit, it was nevertheless fortuitous. You see, it is a tradition that RA's would contemplate casting mercy upon his enemies on the eve of a wedding." Ra's said and Ray snickered.

"You are getting married? I guess there is a pot for every kettle." Ray said.

"The wedding is mine," Al-Sah-Him said stunning his friends, "I am betrothed to Nyssa al Ghul."

Just when she thought she was past getting hurt by Oliver, something happens that proves her wrong. It seemed selfish and petty considering what was going on, but Laurel felt like she had just been gutted at Oliver's words. Oliver looked at her discretely and she caught an unspoken apology in his eyes.



"Take them away." Ra's ordered.

Ra's' men grabbed them and dragged them away. Laurel simply stared at Oliver the whole, watching his face transform into an emotionless mask.

Later, at what they assumed was a special jail cell meant for important prisoners; Laurel was trying to figure out Oliver's angle when an assassin walked in. Malcolm stood up and said something in Arabic that even Laurel could tell sounded desperate. The assassin ignored him and walked over to Laurel.

"War-eeth al Ghul demands your presence." He told her.

Laurel, aware of everyone's eyes on her, simply stood up. She kept her face blank of all emotion as the assassin led her out of the cell and to a room. As the door opened, she realized it was Oliver's room from the last time she was here. She felt a blush rise to her cheeks as she remembered what had happened last time she was in this room. Oliver turned around, the mask of Al-Sah-Him on his face.

"Leave us." Oliver ordered.

The assassin nodded and walked out. Once the doors were closed, Oliver turned to her, the mask of Al-Sah-Him gone.

"Is everyone alright?" Oliver asked.

"They're angry but they're fine. Physically at least." Laurel said allowing a little of her own anger to seep into her voice which Oliver noticed.

"You're angry to." Oliver noticed.

"A little," Laurel admitted, "what is all this about. Marrying Nyssa, doing whatever Ra's tells you, to what end Ollie?"

"The only way I can get close enough to Ra's to kill him and stop him is to act like his plan worked and I've been brainwashed. You know I wouldn't do this if I didn't have a choice." Oliver pleaded with her to understand and after a moment, Laurel nodded slowly.

"I know thatâ€¦but the others might take a little convincing. Especially John." Laurel said.

"Tatsu told me that in order to beat Ra's I'd have to sacrifice everything in my life I hold most precious. John's friendship was on that list." Oliver told her as he ran his hands over his face.

"I think it's more than that Ollie. You lost his trust and respect." Laurel told him and Oliver looked deeply hurt.

"I'll work on getting those back once Ra's is dead. But right now, I need to warn you: I'm gonna have to make it seem like I care nothing for you or the others. Just know that I would never hurt you." Oliver promised her.

"I know that Oliver." Laurel assured him.

Oliver leaned down, as if to kiss her, when they heard the door open.

They turned back to see the assassins back.

"What?!" Oliver demanded annoyed.

"Ra's demands we return this woman to her friends." The assassin said.

Later, Laurel was back with the others. Malcolm had apparently sold Oliver out to Ra's and now they were waiting on the results. The doors opened and Ra's, Al-Sah-Him, and a few assassins walked in. Malcolm shot up.

"I told you about Oliver, you were supposed to-"

"Show you Mercy?" Ra's cut Malcolm off, "I will. The death I will give is much shorter than the one I had planned for you."

"You-" Malcolm sneered as he lunged for Ra's but an assassin struck across the face, sending him to the ground.

"Al-Sah-Him told me the swordswoman is inoculated. Take her to another chamber." Ra's ordered and his men followed his orders as they grabbed Tatsu.

RA's tossed the vial of the virus into the room and it shattered. Gas rose up from the shattered vial and everyone knew what it was. The assassins, the captive Tatsu, Ra's, and Al-Sah-him walked out as Al-Sah-Him closed the door. They screamed at him as Al-Sah-him looked at each of them, as if memorizing their faces one last time. His gaze lingered on Laurel longer than the rest before he followed after the others.

\*\*So, what do you guys think? Please leave any thoughts or comments in a review, feedback is greatly appreciated \*\*

End  
file.